

## MAJOR CHARLES E. BENDIRE.

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The Wilson Ornithological Chapter mourns the loss of Major Charles E. Bendire, an Honory member, who died at Jacksonville, Florida, February 4th, 1897, of Bright's disease. He had removed to Florida in the hope that the genial climate might stay the progress of the disease, but he died only five days after leaving Washington.

Major Bendire was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, April 27, 1836, came to this country in 1852, and in 1854 enlisted as a private in Company D of the 1st Dragoons, United States Army. After serving for many years with distinction and rising to the rank of Captain, he was retired in 1886 on account of an injury to his knee. In 1890 he again took the field and was brevetted Major for gallant services in fighting the Indians at Canon Creek, Montana, on September 13, 1877. He combined the characteristics of fearlessness with sound sense, always dealing out justice to wrong doers, and always respecting the rights of both Indians and Whites. He was both respected and feared by the Indians, who knew they could expect only justice from the White Chief. He never treated them unjustly.

Of Major Bendire's contributions to science, it is enough to mention his two unequalled volumes of "Life Histories of North American Birds." Never since Audubon, Wilson and Nuttall has any such comprehensive work been attempted, and Major Bendire's extensive field experience and intimate association with nature eminently fitted him to undertake so great a task. It is not too much to say that these two volumes have never been equalled in completeness and accuracy of treatment of the habits of the species discussed. Our loss is the more keenly felt when we realize that we cannot now look forward to the succeeding volumes which he had planned and hoped to finish. These volumes and the collections of the eggs of North American birds in the United States National Museum, of which he was the Honorary Curator, and of which his personal collection donated to the Museum formed so large a part, will forever stand as monuments to his untiring devotion to the cause of science.

The excellent portrait of Major Bendire, which appears as frontispiece in this issue, is by the kindness of Mr. Walter A. Johnson, editor of *The Osprey*, Galesburg, Illinois. It was made about 1884.